

in advanced energy storage systems for electric drive vehicles, stationary applications, and electricity transmission and distribution applications, to support the ability of the United States to remain globally competitive in this field, and to promote the efficient delivery and use of energy.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 751) supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 751

Whereas chemistry is a vitally important field of science and technology that has transformed the world and enhanced and improved the quality of life around the globe;

Whereas the power of the chemical sciences has created the enabling infrastructure that delivers the foods, fuels, medicines and materials that are the hallmarks of modern life;

Whereas the contributions of chemical scientists and engineers are central to technological progress and to the health of many industries, including the chemical, pharmaceutical, electronics, agricultural, automotive, and aerospace sectors, and these contributions boost economic growth, create new jobs, and improve our health and standard of living;

Whereas the American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, founded National Chemistry Week in 1987 to educate the public, particularly school age children, about the important role of chemistry in society and to enhance the appreciation of the chemical sciences;

Whereas this year marks the 20th anniversary of National Chemistry Week;

Whereas the theme of National Chemistry Week in 2007, “The Many Faces of Chemistry”, was chosen to emphasize the extensive variety of careers available in the world of chemistry and to honor the tremendous diversity of people who have contributed and will contribute to the advancement of chemistry and all of its branches;

Whereas, in order to ensure our Nation's global competitiveness, our schools must cultivate the finest scientists, engineers, and technicians from every background and neighborhood in our society to create the innovations of tomorrow that will keep our Nation strong;

Whereas a disproportionately low number of minority, underprivileged female students are pursuing careers in science and technology, and it is crucial that we focus attention on increasing the participation of these under represented groups in science and technology fields; and

Whereas, during the week of October 22, which is National Chemistry Week, more than 10,000 National Chemistry Week volunteers from industry, government and academia reach and educate millions of children through hands-on science activities in local schools, libraries, and museums: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the important contributions of chemical scientists and engineers to technological progress and the health of many industries have created new jobs, boosted economic growth, and improved the Nation's health and standard of living;

(2) recognizes the need to increase the number of Americans from under represented groups participating in science and technology fields like chemistry;

(3) supports the goals of National Chemistry Week as founded by the American Chemical Society; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Chemistry Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of chemistry to our everyday lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 751, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support, Madam Speaker, of H. Res. 751, a resolution recognizing the importance of chemistry and honoring National Chemistry Week. I want to congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) for introducing this important resolution.

The importance of chemistry and chemical engineering in our lives cannot be overstated. These disciplines contribute to public health by helping to keep our water clean and our food pure. They contribute to advances in medicine through new biomaterials, drug design and drug delivery techniques. They help make cleaner and more efficient energy technologies possible, and they help keep toxins out of our home and our natural environment through the development of green chemicals and materials.

In short, chemistry and chemical engineering contribute in immeasurable ways to the economic strength, security and well-being of our Nation and all of its citizens.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Chemistry Week. National Chemistry Week was started as an annual event by the American Chemical Society in 1987 to make elementary and secondary school children and the general public more aware of what chemistry is and its importance to our everyday lives.

National Chemistry Week activities are carried out by local sections of the American Chemical Society located in

all parts of our Nation. They work with local industry, schools and museums to develop hands-on activities, provide demonstrations and develop exhibits. Through these activities, they help stimulate the interest of young people in science and in pursuing careers in science and technology.

This Congress recently passed into law the America COMPETES Act. That bill was an important bipartisan effort to keep America competitive in the 21st century by supporting innovative research at universities and in industry, and by ensuring that there is a sufficient pipeline of students pursuing studies and careers in science and technology fields well into the future.

The goals of the National Chemistry Week fit well with the goals outlined in the COMPETES Act.

The theme of this year's National Chemistry Week is, “The Many Faces of Chemistry.” This theme emphasizes the diversity of chemistry careers, from science teacher to laboratory researcher, as well as the diversity of people in chemistry professions.

While women and minorities continue to be underrepresented in chemical science fields, they have made important contributions to chemistry.

Women received about one-third of all chemistry Ph.D.s in 2003. Hispanics and African Americans combined represent only 7 percent of all chemistry Ph.D.s awarded in 2003, even though they make up more than 25 percent of the entire U.S. population.

We will need to make use of all the talent we have to stay competitive in the 21st century, but it isn't just a numbers game. The interaction and collaboration of diverse individuals with differing perspectives enriches the process of discovery and innovation and helps give the U.S. an edge over countries that easily beat us on numbers.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the American Chemical Society for its efforts to establish and sustain National Chemistry Week, and once again, I commend Mr. REYES and his cosponsors for introducing this resolution and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of chemistry in our daily lives and the positive impact of National Chemistry Week by voting in favor of H. Res. 751.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 751, supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Chemistry Week, a concept that was first introduced in 1987 by the American Chemical Society to educate Americans about the contribution chemists and chemistry have made to our society. We first celebrated National Chemistry Day on November 6, 1987, with a parade in Washington, D.C. Because of the overwhelming enthusiasm for the day, 2 years later the

concept was expanded to celebrate National Chemistry Week.

The National Chemistry Week program is designed to reach out to the public, especially elementary and secondary school children, to foster an appreciation for chemistry. The theme of this year's celebration is, "The Many Faces of Chemistry," which is designed to educate the public on the many different types of careers in chemistry and the many different ways chemistry has contributed to our society.

As a part of the activities for this week, the American Chemical Society has chosen to honor chemists working in the fields of biosensors, cosmetics, food, nutrition, dye, materials, natural products, and environmental processes, as well as chemists who work as teachers. These varied fields contribute to our society on a daily basis.

For instance, biosensors may be used to test air quality, drinking water quality, help dentists find cavities, and test for biological and chemical weapons. Material chemists may work on ways to help make new products that are less harmful to the environment, such as making threads and plastic out of renewable biological materials. Nutritional chemists may develop products that contain more vitamins and minerals in an effort to make people healthier and fight malnutrition throughout the world.

National Chemistry Week is intended to honor all of these contributions, as well as encourage our Nation's schools to cultivate the finest scientists, engineers and technicians from every background to ensure we remain globally competitive.

This week, more than 10,000 National Chemistry Week volunteers from industry, government, and academia will reach out to educate millions of children across the country. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring them and these activities through the passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and I ask my friend from Washington State if he has no further requests.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back my time.

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased that we are considering this resolution recognizing the 20th anniversary of National Chemistry Week, which was established by the American Chemical Society to teach children about the chemical sciences. This year, the National Chemistry Week theme is "The Many Faces of Chemistry," emphasizing the diversity of chemistry careers and the diversity of the individuals working in chemistry professions.

Ensuring that our science and engineering workforce accurately reflects the diversity of our population is necessary for our country to succeed. But right now we are falling short. For example, Hispanic Americans constitute 12 percent of the population yet they rep-

resent less than three percent of the engineering and scientific community in the U.S.

Last week the Research and Science Education Subcommittee heard testimony from a number of witnesses on the topic of gender equity within science and engineering faculty. Freeman Hrabowski, the president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus—a campus noted for recruiting and retaining both minority students and faculty—remarked, "Producing well-prepared scientists and engineers for our increasingly diverse workforce is perhaps our most important and lasting contribution to the Nation's economic development and national security." Furthermore, a 2004 survey of the "top 50" science engineering departments at U.S. universities revealed that there are few tenured and tenure-track women faculty in these departments in research universities, even though a growing number of women are completing their Ph.D.s, and that underrepresented minority women faculty are almost nonexistent.

Clearly, we have a problem. I have often said that we are throwing away more than 40 percent of our workforce if we do not actively encourage more women and underrepresented minorities to consider these fields. The American Chemical Society is helping to draw more attention to this issue with the choice of this year's National Chemistry Week theme. "The Many Faces of Chemistry" recognizes the important contributions of chemical educators, scientists and engineers to technological progress and the health of many industries.

I commend the American Chemical Society for stimulating the interest of ALL of our Nation's children in the chemical sciences so that they will consider careers in these fields and potentially discover the innovations of the future, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 751, which recognizes National Chemistry Week. I am proud to support this resolution, as I have done in past years, which acknowledges the critical role chemistry plays in maintaining and improving our quality of life. I thank the gentleman from Texas, (Mr. SILVESTRE REYES) for sponsoring this resolution and I thank the leadership for providing Members of Congress with the opportunity to show our support for this bill on the floor.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Chemistry Week. Started by the American Chemical Society in 1987, this year's National Chemistry Week brings together businesses, schools, and nearly 200 ACS chapters to raise awareness of chemistry in our daily lives. Through aggressive outreach, hands-on demonstrations within local communities and laboratory open houses, National Chemistry Week engages millions of Americans, particularly elementary and secondary students, asking them to think about the how chemistry surrounds us all.

National Chemistry Week's theme for 2007, "The Many Faces of Chemistry," highlights the diverse roles chemistry professionals play in our society. From teaching in the classroom to conducting research in the laboratory, chemistry professionals provide countless services to society. "The Many Faces of Chemistry" is also a challenge to educators to promote diversity in chemistry and the sciences.

Madam Speaker, while ACS organizes National Chemistry Week to celebrate the con-

tributions of chemistry to the common good, as well as the progress in achieving diversity within the field, ACS is also issuing a challenge and a warning to Americans.

Issues such as climate change and infectious disease pose threats not only to the United States, but also to the entire world. In order to solve these problems, we must insist that science education be a priority in our elementary and secondary schools to cultivate the next generation of scientists.

Additionally, this year's National Chemistry Week reminds us that our work is not done promoting diversity within the sciences. While the number of women, African-Americans, and Hispanics earning advanced science and engineering degrees has increased, growth has stagnated recently, and these groups remain underrepresented, when compared to the general population. If the United States is to remain the locus of scientific research and innovation in an increasingly competitive global playing field, we must continue to broaden these groups.

Once again I commend the American Chemical Society for establishing National Chemistry Week in 1987 and thank the organization for two decades of promoting science education. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 751.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 189, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 523, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 762, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining